

MARPLE NEWTOWN SCHOOL DISTRICT
Regular Board Meeting
Tuesday, August 4, 2020
Zoom Meeting
Minutes

Board: Mrs. Tracy Alberti, Mr. Matthew Bilker, President, Mrs. Kathryn Chandless, Mr. David Dezzi, Mrs. Barbara Harvey, Vice President, Mr. John McKenzie, Mr. Nicholas Reynolds, Mr. Nicholas Siano, Mrs. Desiree Tomasco

Solicitor: Mr. Mark Sereni, Esquire

Administration: Dr. Tina Kane, Dr. Connie Bompadre, Mr. Joe Driscoll, Mr. Jim Orwig, Mr. Jake Gallagher, Dr. Dorie Martin-Pitone, Dr. Heather Logue

Press: 0

Audience: 444

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

Mr. Bilker called the meeting to order at 11:02 PM

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Stood on the Pledge from previous meetings

3. PRESENT

Mrs. Alberti, Mr. Bilker, Mrs. Chandless, Mr. Dezzi, Mrs. Harvey, Mr. McKenzie, Mr. Reynolds, Mr. Siano, Mrs. Tomasco

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to accept the agenda, as presented.

Motion was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

Mr. Bilker added motions for 13.05, 13.06, 13.09

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to amend the agenda

Motion was made by Mrs. Harvey, seconded by Mr. Reynolds

With no further discussion motion passed as amended 9 – 0

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS (Agenda Items Only)

Mr. Chris Fox gave the following statement:

I am here behalf of Marple Newtown Against Racism. Before I provide our statement, let me tell you who we are. We are students, parents, alumni and citizens. We are a coalition of your constituents who believe that all students who enter the doors of Marple Newtown Schools are entitled to an education in a safe, respectful, and prosperous environment, conducive to success.

In that regard, while the murders of George Floyd, Breonna Taylor and Ahmed Arbery happened in other states, they shone a light on an ongoing issue with racism that effects communities in every corner of our nation, even ours. Specific regrettable incidents have taken place here in Marple Newtown, as documented by various first hand accounts recently made public on social media. The recent senseless tragedies in far away places also created a much needed environment for dialogue. These hard discussions must take place, here and now.

Our group has prepared an online Petition, which, as of this meeting, has 1,000 signatures. This Petition identifies issues that require an immediate response, and calls for a deeper review of curriculum and other systemic issues that require long-term solutions.

We would like to collaborate with the Administration and Board, and respect that your immediate attention is focused on school reopening. As such, we will defer our substantive discussion for a later Board meeting, when full attention may be given to our concerns. Do not however, confuse our patience with acceptance of the status quo. We are not going anywhere. Hearing the concerns from parents tonight, the challenges and effect of Covid-19 on students only magnifies of the importance of our concerns. Students should never be distracted or discouraged by any classmates, teacher or administers due to the color of their skin.

Our Petition has been met with both praise and criticism by local social media pundits. While public perception is important, we understand that for real change to be effective, it needs to be implemented by the people in this meeting right now. We respect and appreciate your initial Resolution acknowledging that inequity exists and needs to be addressed. We will be here, for the duration, to ensure that your words ring true, and our followed up with action. We intend to hold you accountable. Thank you.

6. WE ARE PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS AND TEACHERS

There was none

7. COMMENDATIONS

There was none

8. STUDENT REPRESENTATIVES' REPORT

There was none

9. SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT

There was none

10. SECRETARY'S MINUTES

There was none

11. OTHER REPORTS

Mr. Bilker asked to approve the following motions:

Motion to approve the agreement between the Delaware County Intermediate Unit and the Marple Newtown School District to provide Vision Services ESY 2020 from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 at a cost of \$166.70 per hour.

Motion to approve the agreement between the Delaware County Intermediate Unit and the Marple Newtown School District to provide Hearing and Language Services ESY 2020 from July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021 at a cost of \$155.49 per hour.

Motion to approve the agreement with Holcomb Behavioral Health Systems for the 2020-2021 school year. This agreement is for intervention services, consultation/technical assistance, liaison, assessment and other appropriate agency services in support of the Student Assistance Program (SAP). This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release In Lieu of FAPE between the District and the parents of Student No. 804315 for the 2020-2021 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the agreement between the District and Maria Toglia, a certified school psychologist, to provide psychological/mental health/behavioral services to school students attending District and out of District schools.

Motion to approve the enrollment agreement for Student No. 880070 to attend Approved Private School for the 2020-2021 school year. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release In Lieu of FAPE between the District and the parents of Student No. 804556 for the 2020-2021 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the agreement between the District and Jeffrey Bomze, M.D. to provide medically related services, including ACCESS submissions and prescription overview, to students attending District schools. This is a renewal contract with Dr. Bomze.

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release In Lieu of FAPE between the District and the parents of Student No. 883440 for the 2020-2021 school year. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release In Lieu of FAPE between the District and the parents of Student No. 883913 for the 2020-2021 school year. This is a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release In Lieu of FAPE between the District and the parents of Student No. 882350 for the 2020-2021 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the enrollment agreement for Student No. 883146 to attend Approved Private School for the 2020-2021 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release In Lieu of FAPE between the District and the parents of Student No. 880158 for the 2020-2021 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the tuition agreement for Student No. 882390 to attend Private School for the 2020-2021 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release In Lieu of FAPE between the District and the parents of Student No. 882415 for the 2020-2021 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Tuition Agreement for Student No. 881686 to attend Private School for the 2020-2021 school year. This is not a new agreement.

Motion to approve the Settlement Agreement and Release In Lieu of FAPE between the District and the parents of Student No. 881014 for the 2020-2021 school year. This is a new agreement.

Motion was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mr. Siano

With no further discussion motions passed 9 – 0

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the resolution supporting the fostering of an anti-racist climate by the Marple Newtown School District and the Board of School Directors.

Mr. Bilker read the following resolution:

Resolution supporting the fostering of an anti-racist school climate by the Board of Directors of the Marple Newtown School District

WHEREAS, we are deeply saddened and outraged by violence against Black men and women, including the recent killings of George Floyd and others.

WHEREAS, we must recognize that racism and hate have no place in our schools and society. Consequently, we acknowledge that we must look at our own school policies and practices through an anti-racist and equity lens to address traces of racism and inequity that may still exist within our own school community.

WHEREAS, it is essential that we establish an expectation that a diversity of students, families, and community members, specifically those that feel that they have been ignored, discriminated against, and marginalized by society, are heard and included on substantive school and district issues.

WHEREAS, we strive to better educate ourselves and seek to educate the community

through continuous professional development and opportunities for honest dialogue and listening sessions, through which we hope to build partnerships in the community focused on overcoming racism and other barriers. By doing so, we can create opportunities to ensure that each child has the tools and supports needed to thrive.

WHEREAS, we must advocate to advance civil rights and cultivate an anti-racist school climate necessary to meet the needs of ALL students in our care. Our students, no matter their race, ethnicity, religion, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, language ability, disability, and other identities, deserve to feel safe, to feel seen, and to feel affirmed.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Marple Newtown School Board unequivocally stand firm in our collective responsibility to foster an equitable and inclusive environment for every student, staff member, parent, and community member. We commit to continue to use our role as school board directors to recognize, respond, and speak out against injustice and racial inequity in our school community. In support of this goal, the Marple Newtown School District has formed an Equity and Diversity Committee to facilitate a culture where diversity, equity, and *inclusion are respected and intentionally valued*.

Motion was made by Mr. Siano, seconded by Mr. Reynolds

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12. CURRICULUM, INSTRUCTION AND TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

12.01 Committee Report – Nicholas V. Siano, Chairperson

12.02 Policy

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the second reading of Policy No. 124 – Alternative Instruction Methods, as presented.

Motion was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.03 Healthy and Safety Plan

Mr. Bilker asked for a motion to approve the Marple Newtown School District Health and Safety Plan, as presented, for submission to PDE (Pennsylvania Department of Education).

Motion was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

12.04 Reopening of School

Motion to approve the Hybrid Reopening Group A Group B Schedule for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. This blended reopening balances in-person learning and

remote/virtual learning for all students.

Motion was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Motion to approve the Virtual Reopening Schedule for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. This model of reopening is fully remote/virtual learning for all students.

Motion was made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

Mrs. Chandless indicated that we should pass both remote and virtual, giving the Superintendent the authority to make the decision on which model so that teachers and parents can be prepared. Dr. Kane advised the Board that with the information that the district has, it would her recommendation to start the year out virtual for the at least the first month.

With no further discussion motion passed 9 – 0

Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions to be approved:

12.05 MN ConnectEd Cyber School

Motion to approve the creation of MN ConnectEd Cyber School.

12.06 IXL

Motion to approve the purchase of IXL, an online curriculum that is fully aligned to the Pennsylvania Core Standards, for a one year license at a cost of \$76,253.00. IXL is a digital leader in personalized learning. Teachers can utilize IXL for supplemental content to help their students master any standard or lesson. Its features include a comprehensive K-12 curriculum, individualized guidance, and a real-time diagnostic, and actionable analytics.

12.07 Emergency Instructional Time

Motion to approve the Emergency Instructional Time Template, as presented, for submission to PDE (Pennsylvania Department of Education).

12.08 Field Trips and Conferences

Motion to approve that no trips or conferences will be approved through January 29, 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic. If and when all restrictions are lifted in regards to the COVID-19 Pandemic, the District will reassess sending students on trips or staff to conferences.

Motions were made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

With no further discussion motions passed 9 – 0

13. HUMAN RESOURCES AND POLICY COMMITTEE

13.01 Committee Report – John P. McKenzie, Chairperson

13.02 Terminations—Extended School Year Programs 2019-2020

Mr. Bilker asked for the following motions to be approved:

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional termination(s) due to the end of the assignment, July 30, 2020, for the 2019-2020 ESY, Summer Learning and ELL programs, Item(s) 1 through 28, as attached.

13.03 Resignations

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified resignation(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Ledina Alimeta – Custodian
Operations Department/Marple Newtown High School
Effective: June 25, 2020
Reason: Resignation
- 2) Tetyana Khudyakov – Food Service Worker II
Food Services Department/Marple Newtown High School
Effective: July 15, 2020
Reason: Resignation

13.04 Leave

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional leave(s) item(s) 1.

- 1) Brittany Sanford - Special Education Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: August 31, 2020 through and including October 23, 2020
Reason: FFCRA: August 31, 2020 through and including
November 25, 2020
Medical Leave: August 31, 2020 through and including
September 15, 2020

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified leave(s) item(s) 1.

- 1) Sheryl Murray – 12-month Secretary
Transportation Department

Effective: July 6, 2020 through and including October 1, 2020
Reason: FMLA: July 6, 2020 through and including September 25, 2020
Medical Leave: July 6, 2020 through and including October 1, 2020

13.05 Appointments

PROFESSIONAL

MOTION: To approve the following professional appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1 through 6.

- 1) Aysel Tuna – Librarian
Loomis Elementary School
Salary: \$46,109.00 (BA-Step 1)
Effective: August 31, 2020 (or sooner should the District calendar be amended)
Replacing: Melissa O'Donnell (Retirement)
- 2) Amanda Gallagher – Librarian
Worrall Elementary School
Salary: \$53,369.00 (MA-Step 1)
Effective: August 31, 2020
Replacing: Gerardine Palmer (Retirement)
- 3) Stacy DiCandilo – Elementary Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$46,109.00 (BA-Step 1)
Effective: August 31, 2020
Replacing: Keith Belson's position (Resignation)
- 4) Kaylyn Crowley – LTS Special Education Teacher
Russell Elementary School
Salary: \$46,109.00 (BA-Step 1)
Effective: August 31, 2020 through June 23, 2021
Replacing: Karen Shoemaker (Sabbatical Leave for Professional Development)
- 5) Monica DiStefano – LTS Special Education Teacher
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$46,109.00 (BA-Step 1)
Effective: August 31, 2020 through February 2, 2021
Replacing: Nicole Strickler (FMLA/CRL)
- 6) Colleen Riordan – LTS Special Education Teacher
Culbertson Elementary School
Salary: \$46,109.00 (pro-rated: BA-Step 1)
Effective: August 31, 2020 through November 25, 2020
Replacing: Brittany Sanford (FMLA/CRL)

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the following classified appointment(s), pending the completion of all necessary pre-employment requirements, item(s) 1.

- 1) Alisa Gopal - Health Room Assistant
Paxon Hollow Middle School
Salary: \$11.74 per hour
Effective: September 8, 2020
Replacing: Jaclyn Albany (Resignation)

13.06 Transfers

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the professional transfers, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, item(s) 1:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1. Rachel Henriques	Russell	Special Education Teacher	Loomis	Special Education Teacher

CLASSIFIED

Motion to approve the classified transfers, effective for the 2020-2021 school year, item(s) 1 through 5:

<u>Name</u>	<u>From</u>	<u>Assignment</u>	<u>To</u>	<u>Assignment</u>
1. Michele Fischetti	Russell	Special Education Asst.	Culbertson	Special Education Asst.
2. Debra Goodyear	MNHS	Special Education Asst.	Worrall	Special Education Asst.
3. Kim Hewes	Culbertson	Special Education Asst.	Worrall	Special Education Asst.
4. Jason Bush	PHMS	Special Education Asst.	MNHS	Special Education Asst.
5. Patricia Tomczak	PHMS	Special Education Asst.	MNHS	Special Education Asst.

13.07 Supplementary Contracts

Motion to approve the appointment of personnel to activity contracts for the 2020-2021 school year, as presented. The amount of each contract is in accordance with the MNEA negotiated agreement. In the event of any COVID-19 related school closure or cessation of the particular activities which are the subject of each contract, these activities contracts are subject to suspension or cancellation, with payments due thereunder prorated for services actually provided.

13.08 Institutional Compliance Solutions (ICS)

Motion to accept the Scope of Work request, as presented, with Institutional Compliance Solutions (ICS) to provide the District with a full range of consulting services with a specialization in Title IX compliance as mandated by the Federal Government effective August 14, 2020. The total cost of this service will not exceed \$4,500.00, as presented.

13.09 Retirements

PROFESSIONAL

Motion to approve the following professional retirement(s) item(s) 1 and 2.

- 1) Jennifer Nemeth-Stalker – Elementary Teacher
Loomis Elementary School
Effective: August 3, 2020
Reason: Retirement
- 2) Penny Gardner - Art Teacher
Marple Newtown High School
Effective: August 4, 2020
Reason: Retirement

Motions were made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

With no further discussion motions passed 9 – 0

14. BUDGET AND FINANCE COMMITTEE

14.01 Committee Report – Kathryn V. Chandless, Chairperson

14.02 Bills for Payment

Motion to approve and authorize payment of General Fund bills in the amount of \$9,436,417.99, Capital Reserve Fund bills in the amount of \$54,134.50, Capital Fund bills in the amount of \$6,302,544.52, and Food Service bills in the amount of \$39,688.32.

14.03 Monthly Reports

Motion to approve monthly financial reports for May 2020 and June 2020, and Treasurer's Report for March 2020 and April 2020.

Informational item monthly financial report for July 2020.

14.04 Donations

Motion to accept \$44.75 check from Marple Newtown Music Parents Association for Elementary Honors Choir.

Motion to accept \$3,591.90 check from Culbertson PTO to purchase IT equipment.

Motion to accept \$3,500.00 check from Loomis Elementary PTO to purchase TV monitors.

Motions were made by Mr. Reynolds, seconded by Mrs. Tomasco

With no further discussion motions passed 9 – 0

15. FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

15.01 Committee Report – Nicholas J. Reynolds, Sr., Chairperson

There are no Facilities and Transportation Committee items for this agenda.

16. DELAWARE COUNTY INTERMEDIATE UNIT REPORT

There was none

17. LEGISLATIVE REPORT

There was none

18. BOARD PRESIDENT’S REPORT TO THE BOARD

There was none

19. COMMENTS FROM THE AUDIENCE

20. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

There was none

21. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business for the Board, Mr. Bilker adjourned the meeting at 11:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted

Joseph Driscoll
Board Secretary